



Mr Chairman,

In the wider North Africa and the Middle East region, our primary focus in recent months has been on cooperation with Tunisia, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt where we are pursuing joint efforts in the fight against terrorism by providing counterterrorism assistance in the areas of security sector reform, enhancing border security, prevention of radicalisation and of the

The EU and its Member States have welcomed the Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and supports the efforts to promote its implementation by the relevant UN entities, and to follow through on increasing UN coherence. The joint statement on preventing violent extremism principles for the UN that was circulated recently to the UN membership is one such initiative by an EU member. Several States have already indicated their support and willingness to co-sponsor and we would encourage all States to consider co-sponsoring this statement.

Mr Chairman,

The EU agrees that the work and initiatives of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) should be better reflected in the UN's CT and PVE agenda. The EU is an active member and we encourage all UN Member States to actively participate to and benefit from the works of this Forum. Let me highlight the recent launch of the Life Cycle Initiative Toolkit for practitioners and decision makers (from prevention, to intervention, to rehabilitation and reintegration) accessible online to all UN Member States. Also, the GCTF good practices documents that have been adopted by the GCTF Ministers guide our policy makers and local practitioners in countering terrorism, preventing violent extremism and secure our border. These good practices have paved the way for several UN resolutions. As such, the EU calls for continued cooperation between the respective UN agencies and this forum to have more impact and to avoid duplication of efforts.

The EU is co-financing three initiatives inspired by this Forum focusing on implementing these good practices documents: (1) Hedayah, the Centre of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism in Abu Dhabi which focuses on understanding a complex phenomenon; (2) the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law in Malta with a focus on strengthening judicial capacity through training parliamentarians and magistrates); (3) the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund in Geneva (which focuses on working with local communities). We believe that these initiatives as well as the whole GCTF's work are very valuable and timely in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.

We have long-established cooperation with the UN through the biannual political dialogues, as well as in the field. We will continue to support CTITF, CTED, UNODC with its Terrorism Prevention Branch, and UNICRI. The EU and its Member States have also engaged in co-funding various projects initiated or co-ordinated by the UNCCT. As regards the UN sanctions regimes, we reiterate our full support to 1267 Committee Ombudsperson Ms. Catherine Marchi-Uhel. The EU remains committed to promote the strengthening of due process and fair and clear procedures in the sanctions regimes. The EU has already taken steps to improve its procedures and will continue its dialogue with the UN and UN Member States in this area.

In view of the growing terrorist threat, we reiterate our call for all Member States to ratify and implement all UN legal instruments to counter terrorism and we recognize Member States efforts towards making progress on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. We remain committed to its successful conclusion.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me also recall that in our joint efforts, it is of utmost importance to ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law. We firmly believe that the rule of law and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms are essential components of the fight against terrorism. Member States must ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism comply with international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law. In the face of the challenge of terrorism, democracies should never compromise their values.

As regards the resolution of the 6<sup>th</sup> Committee under the agenda item on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, we see certain duplication with the Plenary work during UNGA sessions where a resolution to review the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is